

## **Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School - 30<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School was the largest to date, with over 250 pupils attending classes. Feedback was very positive about the relaxed family atmosphere, value for money, excellent tutors, inclusive evening sessions, Le Chéile, concerts and the range of accommodation and facilities available in the area.

The week started on Sunday, 30th June with Aifreann Gaeilge in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilmoeve and some lovely words of encouragement from visiting Columban Priests Fr. Seán Coyle and Fr. Malachy Smyth. The choir was in full voice and there were some lively tunes from local musicians to get the week of music, song, dance and Gaeilge started, with the Irish reading by Comhrá Gaeilge tutor - Méabh Ní Chathasaigh.

In the afternoon, a singing session with local and visiting singers took place in The Thatched Cottage, introduced by Fear an Tí - Michael Nolan. The audience was treated to a range of different songs and singing styles, with a few tunes mixed in.



***Paddy Joe Tighe entertaining everyone at the singing session, with Michael Nolan and John Hoban***

It was a lovely afternoon, with a 'cupán tae' and some home baking provided courtesy of the 'Cois Tine' Heritage Committee. The day ended with a lovely traditional music session in Finan's Bar in Charlestown on Sunday evening.



***Summer School Session in Finan's Bar, Charlestown***

Monday, 1st July started with class registration in Kilmoeve Community Centre with pupils registering from all over Ireland, including some from Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Fermanagh, Louth, Cork, Kerry, Wexford, Waterford, Limerick, Tipperary, Meath, Kildare, Laois and Dublin, as well as overseas visitors from Canada, The Netherlands and France.



***The Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School Committee - Michelle Jordan, Adrienne Walker, Geraldine Duffy, Ann Marie Rooney, Patricia, Bea-Anna & Fergal Smyth***

The staff of the Kilmoeve Community Centre and the Family Resource Centre, with support from the Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School Committee and volunteers from the area, ensured everything ran smoothly for the week - a huge word of thanks to all, especially the volunteers, many of whom took time off work to support the Summer School.

On Monday night the Official Opening took place, with an outstanding performance by Atlantic Rhythm with their 'Tradbeats' show, following their amazing run on Ireland's Got Talent.



### ***Atlantic Rhythm at the Official Opening of the Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School***

This was followed by the 'Cois Tíne' Heritage Night with local and visiting singers, dancers, musicians and storytellers, ending a great day.



***Local and visiting musicians at the 'Cois Tíne' Heritage Night following the Official Opening***

From Tuesday to Friday, morning classes continued from 10am to 1pm, with afternoon classes from 2pm to 5pm. Many pupils chose to attend a class in their favourite instrument in the morning, stay for lunch in the Community Centre and then attend a class in Sean Nós Dancing, Comhrá Gaeilge, Traditional Singing or a second instrument in the afternoon.



***Morning Classes at the Summer School***



***Afternoon Classes at the Summer School***

Sessions were held each night, starting with Duffy's Four Ways in Kilmovée on Tuesday night, Shazzy Macs in Kilkelly on Wednesday night and The Brusna Inn on Thursday night. The sessions were led by local musicians and tutors, starting at 8pm each night with a slow session, followed by the full session at 9.30pm.



***Session in Duffy's Four Ways, Kilmovee***



***Session in Shazzy Macs, Kilkelly***



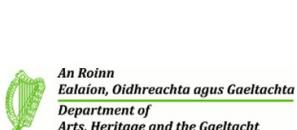
***Brian Bolton and Johnny Towey sharing a tune at the Summer School Session in the Brusna Inn***

On Friday, the focus was on the Closing Concert which started at 7pm. Pupils and Tutors treated everyone in the packed hall to a wonderful night's entertainment. At the start of the concert, 'Cailíní Ceolmhar' the winners of the Seisiún Tent Competition were presented with the Seosamh Mac Gabhann perpetual trophy. This is the second year of the competition, where a group of two or more pupils perform one selection, which could include music, song and dance in the Seisiún Tent during the week and gives pupils a chance to show off their talents.



***Cailíní Ceolmhar - Winners of the Seisiún Tent Competition: Sorcha Brennan, Leah Dunney, Aoibheann Brennan, Niamh Grego, Aibhín Henry, Jessica Dunney***

Funding is also an essential element to keep the Summer School going and this was secured with support from local politicians including Senator John O'Mahony, Councillors John Caulfield, Gerry Murray and Minister Michael Ring. Sponsors for the week were The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mayo County Council, Comhaltas, IMRO and Kilmovée Bingo.



Thanks to all the sponsors of the  
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Cherishing Music In A Changing World



Every Sunday Night At 8.30pm

EST 2000

Thanks also to our local sponsors - Ballaghaderreen & District Credit Union, Durkin's Bar Restaurant & Accommodation, Brusna Inn, All Seasons' Florists, Kelly T.V. & Electrical, Imelda Towey, Brian Mulligan, Padraig Mulligan, Duffy's SuperValu, Fiddler's Elbow and Kilmovée C.C.É.

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Of course the week would not be possible without the top class tutors and most importantly our pupils, whom we look forward to welcoming back again next year to the 10<sup>th</sup> Seosamh Mac Gabhann Summer School, which takes place in Kilmoevee from Sunday, June 28th to Friday, July 3rd 2020.

Bígí linn!

[www.smgssummerschool.com](http://www.smgssummerschool.com)